

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

per 2-2-69
10-6-69 ✓
INFORMATION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

October 1, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*
SUBJECT: Personal Note to President Costa e Silva of
Brazil re His Illness

In a notation on a recent briefing item, you directed me to prepare a personal note for your signature wishing the Brazilian President, Costa e Silva, recovery of his health.

At Tab A is a message sent on September 7 expressing your personal best wishes for Costa e Silva's rapid recovery. At Tab B is an expression of thanks for your message which has just been received from the Brazilian Government.

In view of the recent vintage of this exchange, I have not prepared a second note at this time.

Attachments

State Dept. review completed

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

September 7, 1969

FM SEC STATE
TO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

Please pass following message from President Nixon to
President Costa e Silva: Quote Dear Mr. President: I wish to
express to you and to the military Ministers in the temporary exercise
of the functions of the Presidency my deepest gratitude and that of my
Government for the successful efforts to secure the release of
Ambassador Elbrick. I am fully aware of the complexity of the task
and of the difficult decisions made in confronting this deplorable act
of abduction. I was grieved to hear of your recent illness but am
gratified by reports I have seen of improvement in your health.
I send you my personal best wishes for rapid recovery. End Quote.

White House does not plan to release but has no objection if
Brazilians wish to do so.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

The Embassy of Brazil presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to transmit to it herewith the following, with the request that it be delivered to His Excellency Mr. Nixon, President of the United States of America:

"Temporarily carrying on the functions of President of the Republic, e Silva, we thank you for your words of concern about the incident. At the same time we express our regrets over the incident in which Ambassador Elbrick was involved. All of the measures taken by the Government, which called for decisions, the difficulty of the situation, escape Your Excellency's attention, were aimed at safeguarding the traditions of hospitality of our country. The sincere desire to maintain the characteristic features of Brazilian culture and to strengthen the friendship that exists between us and the United States were the efforts expended, with results that happily met our expectations. Cordially, Augusto Hamann Rademaker Grunewald, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mello, A. de Lyra Tavares."

The Embassy of Brazil avails itself of this opportunity to inform the Department of State the assurances of its highest regards.

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13 - prepare a personal note for my negotiation with the recovery of Bolivia

-- Bolivia: Reports of a possible coup continue to come in, but it appears that no action will be taken until President Siles returns from his trip to the interior. He was expected in La Paz late last night. General Ovando has not yet responded to President Siles' letter asking him to remain as Commander-in-Chief. Meanwhile, supporters of Ovando in the mining town of Oruro have demonstrated and called for Ovando to take over the Presidency. (Tab C)

-- Brazil: President Costa e Silva is making progress in his recovery, but it is still doubtful that he can reassume his full presidential duties. The search for agreement on a successor within the military has narrowed down to three army generals, and the leading contender appears to be General Emilio Garrastazu Medici, a close friend of Costa e Silva's and currently Commander of the Third Army which is headquartered in Rio Grande do Sul.

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[redacted] newspaper reports state that a decision will not be made until after a medical report on Costa e Silva's health is issued September 26. (Tab D)

-- Venezuela: Two ambushes were carried out by guerrillas against government troops on Tuesday and Wednesday; six soldiers were reported killed and eleven wounded. This is the first significant outburst of guerrilla activity in recent months and is a reversal for President Caldera's well-publicized pacification campaign. Embassy Caracas expects the army to push for strong action against guerrilla elements. (Tab E)

-- Chile: [redacted]

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[redacted] Dissatisfaction with the military pay situation among officers resulted in unconfirmed coup rumors earlier in the week. (Tab F)

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